IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for encoding a moving video signal comprising a plurality of images, each image having a plurality of pixels, said method comprising steps of:

generating a sum signal and a difference signal of images for every two frames;

deciding an encoding bit rate for the sum signal and the difference signal based on the sum signal and the difference signal;

encoding the sum signal and the difference signal respectively based on the encoding bit rate; and

generating an output signal on the basis of a proportion of a data quantity generated by encoding the sum signal and a data quantity generated by encoding the difference signal.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of deciding generates a control signal to be used for the encoding, the control signal representing a proportion of the encoding bit rate for the sum signal and the difference signal.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of deciding decides the encoding bit rate on the basis of a variation in signal level of each pixel

of the sum signal and a variation in signal level of each pixel of the difference signal.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of encoding performs the encoding on any one of the sum signal and the difference signal and then performs the encoding on the other signal.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of deciding uses a signal level variation to judge whether the signal contains more information.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of adjusting a level of any one of the sum signal and the difference signal.

7.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for encoding a moving video signal comprising a plurality of images, each image having a plurality of pixels, said apparatus comprising:

a first generating element for generating a sum signal and a difference signal of images for every two frames;

a deciding element for deciding an encoding bit rate for the sum signal and the difference signal based on the sum signal and the difference signal;

an encoding element for encoding the sum signal and the difference signal respectively based on the encoding bit rate; and

a second generating element for generating an output signal on the basis of a

proportion of a data quantity generated by encoding the sum signal and a data quantity generated

by encoding the difference signal.

8.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the

deciding element generates a control signal to be used for the encoding element, the control

signal representing a proportion of the encoding bit rate for the sum signal and the difference

signal.

9.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the

deciding element decides the encoding bit rate on the basis of a variation in signal level of each

pixel of the sum signal and a variation in signal level of each pixel of the difference signal.

10.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said

encoding element performs the encoding on any one of the sum signal and the difference signal

and then performs the encoding on the other signal.

11.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the

deciding element uses a signal level variation to judge whether the signal contains more

information.

12.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, further

comprising an adjustment element for adjusting a level of any one of the sum signal and the

difference signal.

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer program operatable by a computer,

the program comprising instruction data to be carried out by the computer, the instruction data

comprising:

        data to instruct generating a sum signal and a difference signal of images for

every two frames;

        data to instruct deciding an encoding bit rate for the sum signal and the difference

signal based on the sum signal and the difference signal;

        data to instruct encoding the sum signal and the difference signal respectively

based on the encoding bit rate; and

        data to instruct generating an output signal on the basis of a proportion of a data

quantity generated by encoding the sum signal and a data quantity generated by encoding the

difference signal.

14.   (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 13, wherein the

data to instruct deciding includes generating a control signal to be used for the encoding, the

control signal representing a proportion of the encoding bit rate for the sum signal and the

difference signal.

15.   (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 13, wherein the

data to instruct deciding includes deciding the encoding bit rate on the basis of a variation in

signal level of each pixel of the sum signal and a variation in signal level of each pixel of the

difference signal.

16.   (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 13, wherein said

data to instruct the encoding instructs encoding any one of the sum signal and the difference

signal and then instructs encoding the other signal.

17.   (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 13, wherein the

data to instruct deciding includes using a signal level variation to judge whether the signal

contains more information.

18.   (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 13 further

comprising data to adjust a level of any one of the sum signal and the difference signal.

19.   (Previously Presented) A method for decoding encoded data by encoding

a moving video signal comprising a plurality of images, each image having a plurality of pixels,

the encoded data comprising an encoded sum signal generated by encoding a sum signal of

images and an encoded difference signal generated by encoding a difference signal of images,

the sum signal and the difference signal of images being generated for every two frames, the

method comprising steps of:

decoding the encoded data to generate a decoded sum signal and a decoded

difference signal;

generating two-frame images using the decoded sum signal and the decoded

difference signal;

generating an output signal on the basis of a proportion of a data quantity

generated by encoding the sum signal and a data quantity generated by encoding the difference

signal; and

outputting the two-frame images in a prescribed order to generate a decoded

moving video signal.

20.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for decoding encoded data by

encoding a moving video signal comprising a plurality of images, each image having a plurality

of pixels, the encoded data comprising an encoded sum signal generated by encoding a sum

signal of images and an encoded difference signal generated by encoding a difference signal of

images, the sum signal and difference signal of images being generated for every two frames, the

apparatus comprising:

an element for decoding the encoded data to generate a decoded sum signal and a

decoded difference signal;

an element for generating two-frame images using the decoded sum signal and the

decoded difference signal;

an element for generating an output signal on the basis of a proportion of a data

quantity generated by encoding the sum signal and a data quantity generated by encoding the

difference signal; and

an element for outputting the two-frame images in a prescribed order to generate a

decoded moving video signal.

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer program operatable by a computer,

the program comprising instruction data to be carried out by the computer, the instruction data

including decoding encoded data by encoding a moving video signal comprising a plurality of

images, each image having a plurality of pixels, the encoded data comprising an encoded sum

signal generated by encoding a sum signal of images and an encoded difference data generated

by encoding a difference signal of images, the sum signal and difference signal of images being

generated for every two frames, the instruction data further comprising:

data to instruct decoding the encoded data to generate a decoded sum signal and a

decoded difference signal;

data to instruct generating two-frame images using the decoded sum signal and

the decoded difference signal;

data to instruct generating an output signal on the basis of a proportion of a data

quantity generated by encoding the sum signal and a data quantity generated by encoding the

difference signal; and

data to instruct outputting the two-frame images in a prescribed order to generate

a decoded moving video signal.